

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE
CURRENT INFORMATION
TO ALL DMH EMPLOYEES.

Mission of DMH:

Prevention,
Treatment, and
Promotion of
Public Understanding
for Missourians with
mental illnesses,
developmental
disabilities, and
addictions

Vision of DMH:

Hope * Opportunity

Community Inclusion

Missourians
receiving mental
health services will
have the
opportunity to
pursue their dreams
and live their lives as
valued members of
their communities.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**2009 Mental Health
Champions'
Banquet**

2-3

Upcoming Dates

4

**Alcohol Awareness
Month
Resources**

4

DMH Monthly

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Director's Corner

The guest columnist is Tec Chapman, Deputy Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

March was designated Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and recognized throughout the country. More than 100,000 Missouri children and adults and their families experience developmental disabilities.

A developmental disability occurs prior to the age of twenty-two and is likely to continue indefinitely. Some examples of developmental disabilities include intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, head injury, and autism.

We learn about others by spending time together at work and where we live and play. Public understanding of developmental disabilities is one of the most effective strategies in assisting people with developmental disabilities live integrated and productive lives. People with developmental disabilities are our family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, teammates, or classmates.

The Division of Developmental Disabilities, in partnership with persons with developmental disabilities, families, direct support professionals, provider agencies, and Senate Bill 40 Boards develop and provide supports and services in local communities to meet the needs of persons living with developmental disabilities.

We should all realize that people with developmental disabilities have rights, responsibilities and possibilities. Many individuals with developmental disabilities are productive and contributing members of their communities.

"I encourage all of us to focus on engaging the public to better understand and get involved with the individuals we serve," said Bernie Simons, Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

Thank you for all you do to enhance the lives of persons with developmental disabilities.

2009 Mental Health Champions' Banquet

Three remarkable Missourians who have overcome mental health challenges were honored Wednesday, April 1, as 2009 Mental Health Champions for their accomplishments and for making life better for others and their communities. The Champions are: Jamie Graham, Kirksville; Robert Qualls, Springfield; and Regina McKinney, Kansas City.

Mental Health "Lasting Legacy" awards also were bestowed on former Governor Warren Hearnes, First Lady Betty Cooper Hearnes, and the late Dr. Elmer C. Jackson, the first African-American psychiatrist for the Department of Mental Health.

"The stories of our champions are truly inspiring. They are a testament to the ability of people to overcome mental illness, developmental disabilities and substance abuse to have a positive impact on others," said Debra Walker, Executive Director of the Missouri Mental Health Foundation.

More than 350 people attended the banquet at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in



Anything Goes Band from Fulton State Hospital

Jefferson City in honor of the 2009 Mental Health Champions. "Anything Goes," the band from Fulton State Hospital provided musical entertainment during the banquet.

The Mental Health Champions Banquet helps to reduce stigma commonly associated with individuals who have a developmental disability, mental illness or substance abuse or addiction issues by honoring a few of the amazing consumers we serve.



Missouri Mental Health Foundation Director, Debra Walker pictured with Dr. Schafer, Director of the Department of Mental Health and the 2009 Mental Health Champions

Jamie Graham has dedicated a large part of his life to advocating for people with disabilities. He has served as a Self-Advocate for the Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities.

Jamie was inducted into the Special Olympics Hall of Fame. He is also a



Jamie Graham proudly accepts his award (Left to right: Emcee Dan Buck, Jamie Graham and Debra Walker)

published author and recognized artist.

His publications include two children's books: "Jamie's Bright and Happy Walk" and "Uncle Jamie's Super Helmet Show."

Robert Qualls has chaired the State Advisory Council for Comprehensive Psychiatric Services and was appointed to the Transformation Leadership Work Group. Robert courageously taped his personal story for a statewide Public Service Announcement. He has participated in NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) and continues to be a strong advocate for individuals with mental illness.



2009 Mental Health Champions Jamie Graham, Robert Qualls and Regina McKinney

Regina McKinney is a Life Skills Coordinator and Case Manager at Friendship House in Kansas City. She has overcome adversity to help over 200 women find their way through the maze of recovery from substance addiction. She has provided services to over 500 children whose mothers were working on addiction issues.

Mental Health Champions Banquet continued...

Governor and Mrs. Warren Hearnes and Dr. Elmer C. Jackson received Lasting Legacy Awards for their lifetime contributions to mental health in Missouri.

Warren Hearnes served as the state's 46th Governor. During his administration, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services were created; the state's Regional Office system serving persons with developmental disabilities was established and community mental health services were initiated.

Betty Hearnes partnered with her husband during his two terms as Governor to advance the state's mental health system. She later served as a State Representative and a candidate for Governor and a member of the State Mental Health Commission. She continues to be a strong advocate for mental health.



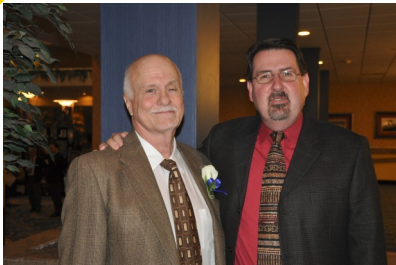
Emcee Dan Buck and Debra Walker, present Mrs. Hearnes with the Lasting Legacy Awards



Elmer Jackson, Jr. accepts the Lasting Legacy Award on behalf of his late father

Elmer Jackson, M.D., was a pioneer in the clinical as well as cultural development of Missouri's public mental health system.

As the first African-American psychiatrist in the Department of Mental Health, Dr. Jackson overcame the institutional discrimination of the 1950's and 60's to leave a lasting legacy on the Department of Mental Health.



2009 Mental Health Champion, Robert Qualls with Rev. Joe Bright



2009 Director's Creativity Showcase



Thank you to our Cardinal Raffle Volunteers!



The 2009 Mental Health Champions Banquet

Click on <http://www.dmh.mo.gov/opa/ChampionsPictures.htm>
to view photos from the 2009 Mental
Health Champions Banquet!

Thank You to
everyone who helped to
make the 2009
Mental Health
Champions Banquet
a success!



April is:
Autism Awareness Month
Alcohol Awareness Month
Child Abuse Prevention Month

DMH DATES TO REMEMBER

- Children's Mental Health Week
May 3-9
- Truman's Birthday.....May 8
- Memorial Day.....May 25

April is Alcohol Awareness Month!!

Go to:
<http://www.toosmarttostart.samhsa.gov/community/teachin/Default.aspx#materials>
for the Reach Out Now Community Toolkit.

This link is provided by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
and provides information to support media outreach efforts in Missouri during
Alcohol Awareness Month.



Alcohol Awareness 5K Run or Walk

When: Saturday morning, April 25, 2009

Event Location: Run/walk will begin and end at The Zone
555 Blue's Lake parkway
Rolla, MO

Visit rollaskatezone.com for directions
For more information, please call (573) 368-4755

